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# USDA NEWS

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DALLAS, TEXAS

## FHA EMPLOYEE GETS \$50 AWARD

On August 31, 1950, Mr. Oscar E. Bergstrom, an employee of the Farmers Home Administration, Area Finance Office III, was presented with a \$50 cash award for the following suggestion.

The Area Finance Office will be provided with a supply of Forms 2244(a), Application to Obtain the Issuance of a Substitute Check, and these forms will be issued from the Finance Office instead of from the Regional Disbursing Office in the Treasury Department.

In this way at least 15 day's time will be saved in the issuance of a substitute check.

## RICE SUPPORT PRICES ARE LARGER FOR 1950

An announcement has been made by the Agriculture Department that it will support grower prices of 1950 crop rice at an average of \$4.56 per 100 pounds or about \$2.05 a bushel.

These rates compared with \$3.96 and \$1.78, respectively, at which last year's crop was supported.

The Department is required by law to support rice at 90 per cent of parity.

## SOIL CONSERVATION PROGRAM SHOWS EMINENT RESULTS

"The Soil Conservation Program has been extended to 162 additional farms in the district this year," states A. L. Gambrell of Copeville, Texas, Soil Conservation District Chairman.

"More than 200 acres of King Ranch bluestem grass has been planted and we estimate more than 1,000 acres will be planted in 1950," Gambrell said. Also district farmers bought and sodded more than \$3,000 worth of Bermuda grass roots. These went on 201 waterways draining approximately 400 miles of terraces.

Seven farm ponds have been constructed, forty miles of terraces have been thrown up, two fields of field diversion dams have been built and one maintenance plan drawn up this year.

The farmers are profiting from the use of legumes according to Gambrell.

"Many of our farmers are getting substantial increases in yields as a result of complete soil conservation program. Our best increases are  
(Continued on Page 2)

## PEANUT GROWING IS EXONERATED

### New Processing Plant Opened

After one hundred years of specialization in cotton, corn, and cattle, Lewisville, Texas, now is turning with confidence to the lowly Spanish peanut as a special money crop.

Arvel Boyd, Vice-President of the Lewisville State Bank, states "The peanut is a lot better money crop than cotton, and now we're getting a \$90,000 plant that can handle up to 1,000 tons a month."

E. W. Batterton, who will manage Lewisville's new industry said, "Complete equipment for drying and  
(Continued on Page 2)

Peanut Exoneration,  
etc., Cont'd.

shelling peanuts is being installed, and we will make the peanuts ready for the edible market, that is for sale to peanut butter and candy factories and to oil mills. We'll be able to shell about 90 tons of peanuts every sixteen hours."

The new company expects to handle a large share of the peanuts grown in Denton and adjoining counties.

The government support price of peanuts has never been less than \$201 a ton during the last six years, and the prices for the 1950 crop unprocessed peanuts will be supported at a basic rate of 10.8¢ per pound or about \$216 per ton, the Agriculture Department announced in August. This is about \$5 per ton more than the 1949 price.

Price supports will be limited to each farmer's marketing quota.

Under a quota program designed to prevent overproduction, a farmer must not harvest peanuts in excess of the 1947 picked and threshed acreage for his farm.

Eastland County peanut farmers are expecting prosperous returns from this year's crop.

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## AGRICULTURAL LAB DISCOVERS NON-FOOD USE FOR POTATOES

In searching for new non-food uses for potatoes, the Bureau of Agricultural and Industrial Chemistry's Eastern Regional Research Laboratory has developed a method for preparing lactic acid from this agricultural commodity.

Lactic acid is used extensively in tanning, textile, pharmaceutical, and food industries, and is potentially a valuable intermediate for the chemical synthesis of elastomers, plastics, and plasticizers.

At present it is manufactured domestically by fermenting sugars and sirups with addition of inorganic and organic nutrients.

Washed potatoes were ground, cooked, and treated with enzymes similar in action to barley malt to convert the starch to sugars, which were fermented to lactic acid with no previous separation or purification.

The enzymic conversion is not time-consuming, but progresses simultaneously with the acid fermentation.

The results showed that the potato has the carbohydrate, protein, mineral, and other constituents required for the growth of micro organisms, which provides a means for converting surplus and cull potatoes into lactic acid, a valuable industrial chemical.

Soil Conservation,  
etc., Cont'd.

from corn and grain sorghum following hubam and madrid clovers," he said.

All county agencies --veterans vocational agricultural groups, Extension Service, Production and Marketing Administration, Farmers Home Administration, and the Soil Conservation Service--are cooperating with the district in meeting its problems.

"We think this unity of purpose is

most important at this time," Gambrell said.

"Cotton acreage has been reduced and there is a need for all educational agencies to help the farmer in working out the best possible use for his land," said the chairman.

## AGE AN ASSET

A study of the careers of 730 women in top-level Federal Government jobs shows that more than half of the women were 45 years old or older when they reached their highest reported salary. Promotions came from experience largely.



### WHEAT PRICE SUPPORT SET AT PEAK LEVEL

The Agriculture Department has announced price supports for 1951 wheat have been set at the highest possible--90 per cent of parity, but no less than \$1.99 per bushel.

This was the same as for the 1950 crop.

The Department also announced that in order to put wheat on the same basis as other grains, no payments will be made to producers storing it on their farms. In recent years the Commodity Credit Corporation has paid farmers 7¢ a bushel to store wheat on which it has granted loans.

Only farmers who keep within acreage allotment limits can get price supports.

Parity for wheat will be figured out next July 1. If it is higher, the price support will be increased.

Parity is a standard for measuring farm prices that is described by law as equally fair to farmers and persons who buy their products.

Price support through loans and purchase agreements will be available on the 1951 wheat crop from harvest time to January 31, 1952.

### TEXAS RANKS 2ND IN PERCENTAGE RISE OF INCOME TO AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL

#### Agriculture Contributes Big Boost

A dispatch from Washington states that Texas is second among the States in percentage of increase in average individual income.

Texas has many new developments in oil, gas, chemical industries and other branches of commerce but agriculture unequivocally is still the foundation of our regional economy.

For many years agriculture depended upon a cash surplus from cotton. But now it is going far beyond that, and the most hopeful aspect of Texas economy today is the progress in diversified agriculture.

Examples of Agriculture's recent expansion are the rice drying plants of our coast lands, the flax mill at Henedy, the starch and dextrose sugar plant at Corpus Christi that will utilize grain sorghums in the first process of the kind, the canning plants of the Valley and East Texas, the fruit juice concentrate and quick freezing industries of the South Texas area, the sweet potato processing plants of the pinyon section, and the new peanut processing plant at Lewisville. These are only a part of our recent agricultural developments.

Texas is now receiving a cash surplus from cultivation of the diversified crops and beyond that from their utilization in manufacturing processes.

There are many agricultural reasons why the Texas individual income increases from year to year.

### HAIRY VETCH STANDS TEST

At the United States cotton Experiment Station at Greenville, Superintendent Dalton Hootenput reported that on four field days in a row, the best cotton yields shown were an average of 905 pounds of seed cotton to the acre, over the ten years of the test of cotton following hairy vetch in a rotation of corn, oats, and cotton in that order.

### VALUE TEXAS FARM LANDS SHOWS TWO PER CENT RISE

The value of Texas farm lands rose 2 per cent during the 4-month period between March and July, according to a report from the Agriculture Department.

### Contains All

Pupil: "Is there a word in the English Language which contains all the vowels?"

Teacher: "Unquestionably!"

Pupil: "What is it?"

Teacher: "I just told you."

## USDA CLUB NEWS

Published first of each month. Send news contributions to Room 319 A, 1114 Commerce Street, or Call Sta. 807.

Editor: Lois Mildred Yeager

### CCC CLUB ADOPTS SEVERAL CHANGES

The CCC Club of which Billy Banks is president decided at the meeting held in August that \$25 should be allocated from the treasury for the purchase of flowers in case of the death of an employee and \$15 allocated in case of death of a member of the employee's immediate family which includes parents, wife, husband, sisters, brothers, and children.

For going away presents for employees with 6 months or less service \$2.50; for employees with 6 months to 1 year service \$5.00; for employees with 1 year or more service \$10.00, respectively, have been allocated as maximum prices for gifts.

Membership in the CCC Club is purely voluntary, however, a warm welcome is extended to each new employee in the Dallas FMA Commodity Office.

To qualify for membership an initial fee of 25¢, in addition to the first regular bi-weekly dues per member of 15¢ totaling 40¢ will be collected from employees desiring to become members.

The Club affords a systematic way in which to pay expenses for gifts and flowers for fellow employees on occasions which warrant gifts.

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### DID YOU KNOW?

...that in 1945 individuals owned 85% of the 1,142 million acres of farmlands in the United States?

...that alfalfa is pollinated by bees. If there are not enough wild bees to assure pollination, honey bees must be moved into the field to do the job?

...that although almost extinct 10 years ago, sand lovegrass is making a comeback in Soil Conservation Districts. That reseeded pastures of this grass produced an average of 422 pounds of live weight gain per Hereford Steer annually? That sand lovegrass also carried many more head of cattle per section?

...that although safflower has been grown in the United States since 1899, and probably earlier as a botanical curiosity, it was not until 1925 that its commercial possibilities were explored. In 1949 for the first time production in this country supported commercial processing operations. In addition to its use as a drying oil in paints, it provides feed for livestock and poultry?

...that in 1945, the first mechanical cotton picker to operate in North Carolina harvested 170 bales in Robeson County. This still stands as the high mark for one machine during one season.

### SUGAR IMPORTS TO BE LARGER

The Agriculture Department has increased the import quota of sugar for 1950 by 350,000 short tons, raw value, which raised the marketing quota for the year to 7,850,000 short tons.

This action was taken because of increased buying and price rises in this country.

### Chooses Hearing?

Doctor:

"You are going to have to give up your drinking or lose your hearing, whichever you choose."

Patient:

"What I've been drinking is so much better than what I've been hearing that I believe I'll just give up my hearing."

### WANT ADS

FOR SALE:- Electrolux refrigerator 5 Cubic Feet. Excellent condition.--Reasonable-  
PHONE FA-0234

FOR SALE:- High Chair, breaks down and makes a play table --Good condition-  
PHONE FA-0234